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Ex-Agent Testifies in Spy Trial

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LOS ANGELES, April 24 — A former agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who has been named as one of the lovers of a Russian émigré woman charged with espionage took the witness stand late Wednesday on the first day of her trial.

The former agent, John E. Hunt, testified that he initially interviewed the woman, Svetlana Ogorodnikov, in Los Angeles on June 18, 1980, and became the first agent in charge of her case.

Mrs. Ogorodnikov and her husband, Nikolay, are charged with conspiring with Richard W. Miller, another F.B.I. agent, to pass secret Government documents to the Soviet Union. The three were arrested Oct. 2. Mr. Miller is to be tried later.

Mr. Hunt has not been charged with any wrongdoing. Mrs. Ogorodnikov is accused by the Government of seducing Mr. Miller to recruit him to work for Soviet intelligence. In pretrial proceedings, she said she had earlier had a sexual affair with Mr. Hunt.

He left the bureau last Nov. 27 after 14 years of service. He said he had retired for health reasons and because he had accumulated 20 years as a law-enforcement officer.

Mr. Hunt testified Wednesday that in his first interview with Mrs. Ogorodnikov she told him she had "made a number of contacts" at the Soviet consulate in San Francisco and the Soviet Embassy in Washington as a result of unsuccessful efforts by the couple to get visas to visit the Soviet Union.

Among the officials she knew, Mr. Hunt said, was Victor Zonov, a vice consul at San Francisco, who had been seen in Mrs. Ogorodnikov's car in February 1980.

Mr. Hunt said that at the end of the interview, he asked her to be an F.B.I. informer but she refused. He also said he had told Mrs. Ogorodnikov that "she was in a position to possibly be of service to the F.B.I." because of her contacts. "She said: 'I know exactly what you're asking. I do not wish to cooperate in any way,'" he testified.